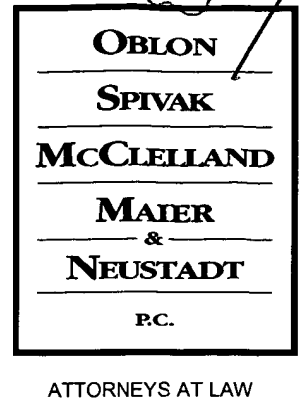




Docket No.: 5244-0084-2X

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 09/192,583  
Applicants: Tetsuro MOTOYAMA  
Filing Date: November 17, 1998  
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATING  
WITH A DEVICE ATTACHED TO A COMPUTER  
USING ELECTRONIC MAIL MESSAGES  
Group Art Unit: 2616  
Examiner: HO, CHUONG T.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**APPEAL BRIEF WITH APPENDICES**

Our credit card payment form in the amount of **\$500.00** is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

James J. Kulbaski

Registration No. 34,648

11/28/2006 MBIZUNES 00000033 09192583

01 FC:1462

500.00 0P

Customer Number

**22850**

(703) 413-3000 (phone)  
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

Kurt M. Berger  
Registration No. 51,461



DOCKET NO: 5244-0084-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
TETSURO MOTOYAMA : EXAMINER: HO, C..  
SERIAL NO: 09/192,583 :  
FILED: NOVEMBER 17, 1998 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2616  
FOR: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR :  
COMMUNICATING WITH A DEVICE  
ATTACHED TO A COMPUTER USING  
ELECTRONIC MAIL MESSAGES

APPEAL BRIEF

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicants appeal the outstanding Final Rejection of June 28, 2006, finally rejecting each of pending Claims 1-53.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The above-noted application is assigned to Ricoh Company, Ltd. and Ricoh Corporation, which are the real parties in interest.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant and Applicant's representative are not aware of any related appeals or interferences that will directly effect or be directly affected by or having a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

### III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-53 are pending in this application and the rejection of each of Claims 1-53 is being appealed.

No claims were cancelled, but Claims 45-53 were added during prosecution of this application.

### IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An Amendment was filed on June 7, 2006, subsequent to the non-final rejection dated March 7, 2006. In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the Amendment filed June 7, 2006, was entered and made of record. Accordingly, all previously filed Amendments have been considered by the Examiner and are reflected in the attached claims.

### V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

A first aspect of the invention relates to determining whether a content of an electronic mail message which has been received is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with a computer. One embodiment of the invention providing support for Claim 1 is shown in Figure 14 and described in the specification at p. 26, line 22 - p. 28, line 10.

A further feature of the invention is the use of a device driver. An exemplary device driver 440 is illustrated in Figure 9 and described in the specification at p. 22, line 17 - p. 23, line 14. It is acknowledged that the specification generally explains that if desired, the invention may be implemented without using a device driver. See p. 26, lines 12-17. However, the invention specifically recites and is limited to the use of a device driver which is a special type of software and does not include every type of software

The applicants of the present invention recognized that a problem exists in the current art in that until the present invention there was not a method and system for processing a message received by a computer to determine whether a content of the received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer.

Accordingly, Claim 1 sets forth a method of processing messages, comprising: (1) receiving an electronic mail message by a computer; (2) determining, by the computer, whether a content of the received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer by detecting a characteristic of the message, the attached printing device including a processor; (3) transmitting a communication from the computer to the attached printing device, if the determining step determines that the received message relates to monitoring or control of the attached printing device; and (4) operating the processor of the attached printing device in response to the transmitted communication.

As discussed above, Claim 1 finds general support in the flowchart of Figure 14 and pages 26-28 in the specification. In addition, the receiving step recited in Claim 1 is supported by Figure 14, step 520. The determining step recited in Claim 1 is supported by Figure 14, steps 524 and 526. Further, the transmitting and operating steps recited in Claim 14 is supported by Figure 14, step 528 and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

Independent Claim 23 sets forth a system reciting limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1 and is supported by the originally filed specification and drawings in a manner analogous to the support for Claim 1 described above. In addition, support for the system components recited in Claim 23 is provided by Figures 8-10 and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

Independent Claim 18 is directed to a method of transmitting, comprising: (1) transmitting state information including at least one of static, semi-static, and dynamic states of a printing device from the printing device to a first computer directly attached to the printing device, the printing device including a processor; (2) processing, automatically without human intervention, the state information by a software component within the first computer; and (3) transmitting, by the first computer, automatically without human intervention, the processed state information over the Internet to a monitoring second computer.

Claim 18 finds general support in Figures 15-20 and pages 28-33 of the specification. In particular, the transmitting step finds support in Figures 9, 10, 15 (step 540), and 16 (step 560). See also pages 28 and 29 of the specification. The processing step is supported by page 28, lines 21-24. Finally, the transmitting step is supported by Figures 15 (step 544) and 16 step (566).

Independent Claim 40 sets forth a system reciting limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 18 and is supported by the originally filed specification and drawings in a manner analogous to the support for Claim 1 described above. See Figures 9, 10, and 15-20.

## VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The grounds of rejection being appealed are as follows:

(1) whether the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,694 to Lazaridas et al. (hereinafter "the '694 patent") in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,412,779 to Motoyama (hereinafter "the '779 patent") render obvious the subject matter of Claims 1-4, 8-10, 12-15, 23-26, 31, 32, 34-37, 45, 46, 48, and 50-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a);

(2) whether the teachings of the '694 and '779 patents, further in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,951,636 to Zerber (hereinafter "the '636 patent") render obvious the subject matter of Claims 5-7, 11, 16, 17, 27-29, 30, 33, 38, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a);<sup>1</sup>

(3) whether the teachings of the '694 and '779 patents, further in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,108,492 to Miyachi (hereinafter "the '492 patent") render obvious the subject matter of Claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a);

(4) whether the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,065,136 to Kuwabara (hereinafter "the '136 patent") in view of the teachings of the '779 patent render obvious the subject matter of Claims 18 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a);

(5) whether the teachings of the '136 and '779 patents, further in view of the teachings of the '694 patent render obvious the subject matter of Claims 19-22 and 41-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a); and

(6) whether the teachings of the '136 and '779 patents, further in view of the teachings of the '492 patent render obvious the subject matter of Claims 49 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

## VII. ARGUMENT

### Claims 1-17, 23-39, 45-48, and 50-52

Claim 1 is directed to a method of processing messages, comprising: (1) receiving an electronic mail message by a computer; (2) determining, by the computer, whether a content of the received message is for the user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer by detecting a characteristic of the message, the

---

<sup>1</sup> Applicants note that page 14 of the outstanding Office Action also lists Claim 47 as being rejected on these grounds. However, Claim 47 is not specifically addressed in the detailed description of the rejections. Moreover, Claim 47 was separately rejected on Claim 16 as being unpatentable over the '694, '779, and '492 patents. Accordingly, Applicants believe the listing of Claim 47 as rejected under these grounds of rejection is in error.

attached printing device including a processor; (3) transmitting a communication from the computer to the attached printing device, if the determining step determines that the received message relates to monitoring or control of the attached printing device; and (4) operating the processor of the attached printing device in response to the transmitted communication.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action asserts that the '694 patent discloses everything in Claim 1 with the exception of "control of [an] attached image printing device (copier engine) associated with the computer (user); and transmitting a communication from the computer (user) to the attached image printing device (copier engine),"<sup>2</sup> and relies on the '779 patent to remedy those deficiencies.

The '694 patent is directed to a system and method for pushing information from a host system to a mobile communication device having a shared electronic address with the host system. As shown in Figure 1, the '694 patent discloses a system in which certain user-defined event triggers are activated and messages or commands are redirected from a desktop computer to a mobile communications device. In particular, as shown in steps 68-72 of Figure 4, regarding incoming email messages, if the messages are to be redirected by the redirector 12, the message is repackaged by placing an outer wrapper around the original message before being forwarded to the user.<sup>3</sup>

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '694 patent fails to disclose the step of determining, by the computer, whether a content of the received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer by detecting a characteristic of the message, the attached printing device including a processor, as recited in amended Claim 1. In this regard, Applicants note that the '694 patent fails to disclose an attached printing device. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '694 patent fails to disclose a computer that determines whether a receive message is for a

---

<sup>2</sup> See page 7 of the outstanding Office Action.

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., the '694 patent, column 10, line 39 - column 11, line 5.

user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer, as recited in Claim 1. Rather, the '694 patent discloses a system in which all of the messages received by the computer are intended for the user. The '694 system only determines whether or not to forward a message to the user's mobile communication device or to keep the message on the computer. Applicants respectfully submit that such a determination by the '694 patent is unrelated to a determination of whether a received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer, as recited in Claim 1. *Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the deficiency of the '694 patent in this regard cannot be cured by a reference that generally discloses the monitoring or control of a printer attached to a computer.* Such a combination of references would not teach or suggest a step of determining whether a received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device, as recited in Claim 1. Moreover, contrary to the assertion on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the '694 patent fails to disclose or suggest an attached device.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the '694 patent fails to disclose the step of transmitting a communication from the computer to the attached printing device, if the determining step determines that the received message relates to monitoring or control of the attached printing device, as recited in amended Claim 1. Rather, the '694 patent discloses that a message intended for the same user is forwarded to the mobile communication device upon the occurrence of particular events or the detection of certain criteria within the received message. However, the '694 patent does not disclose or suggest that a received message could possibly relate to the monitoring or control of an attached printing device and that a communication should be sent from the computer if such a condition occurs. The '694 patent is unrelated to the monitoring and or control of attached printing devices.



The '779 patent is directed to a method and apparatus for controlling and communicating with business office devices. As shown in Figure 1, the '779 patent discloses that if the system control process 102 of the copier engine 10 detects an abnormal state it may send a message to the operational panel 20, which displays the message on a display panel.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '779 patent fails to disclose a step of determining, by the computer, whether a content of the received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer by detecting the characteristic of the messaged, the attached printing device including a processor, as recited in Claim 1. While the '779 patent discloses a copier engine 10 connected to an operation panel, the '779 patent does not teach or suggest the determining step recited in Claim 1. The '779 patent does not disclose a computer that examines a received message to determine whether the received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer. Further, since it does not disclose the determining step recited in Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the '779 patent must also fail to disclose the transmitting step recited in Claim 1.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '694 and '779 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest the determining step recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and the rejection of Claim 1 (and all similarly rejected dependent claims) should be withdrawn.

In the outstanding Office Action, the stated motivation for combining the teachings of the '694 and '779 patent is "in order to diagnose ... troubles in such devices."<sup>4</sup> However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action is simply stating perceived advantages of Applicants' invention as motivation to combine the cited references, without identifying

---

<sup>4</sup> Office Action dated June 28, 2006, page 8. Emphasis added.

that, without Applicants' specification, one of ordinary skill in the art would have even thought to address the problem. Such hindsight reconstruction of Applicants' invention cannot be used to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Moreover, as discussed above, the combination of the '694 and '779 patents does not teach or suggest determining, by a computer, whether a content of a received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer, as recited in Claim 1. In this regard, Applicants note that the Office Action is asserting that because the '694 patent discloses redirection software that may either send a user's message to a user's mobile communication device or store the message on the computer, that this is a teaching of determining whether a content of a received message is for a user or relates to an attached device. Next, the Office Action relies on the '779 patent as disclosing "the monitoring or control of an attached printing device." However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '779 patent is unrelated to determining whether a received message is for a user or relates to a device, while the '694 patent has nothing to do with the monitoring or control of an attached printing device. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated by the '779 patent's teaching of an operation panel 20 and the copier engine 10 to modify the '694 patent to include a determination of whether a received message is (a) for a user or (b) relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer. The '694 patent does not disclose attached printing devices and all of the messages disclosed by the '694 patent are for the user, so that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the '694 patent to include a determination of whether the content of a received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion in the combined teachings of the '694 and '677 patents of the determining step recited in Claim 1. Rather, the

Office Action is simply engaging in hindsight reconstruction in an attempt to find references that disclose the specific words recited in Claim 1.

For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and all similarly rejected dependent claims) patentably defines over any proper combination of the '694 and '779 patents.

Independent Claim 23 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and the rejection of Claim 23 (and all similarly rejected dependent claims) should be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of dependent Claims 5-7, 11, 16, 17, 27-29, 30, 33, 38, 39, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants respectfully submit that the '636 and '492 patents fail to remedy the deficiencies of the '694 and '779 patents, as discussed above. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the above-identified dependent claims.

Claims 18-22, 40-44, 49, and 53

Claim 18 is directed to a method of transmitting, comprising: (1) transmitting state information including at least one of static, semi-static, and dynamic states of a printing device from the printing device to a first computer directly attached to the printing device, the printing device including a processor; (2) processing, automatically without human intervention, the state information by a software component within the first computer; and (3) transmitting, by the first computer, automatically without human intervention, the processed state information over the Internet to a monitoring second computer.

The '136 patent is directed to a system for the remote diagnosis of device "troubles" including a trouble diagnosing computer capable of diagnosing troubles which occur in a main part of a device associated with a user. As shown in Figure 1, computers 5, 6, and 7 are connected via the Internet to a provider computer 8, which is connected to a trouble diagnosis computer 4. As shown in Figure 5, a mail setting program saves diagnostic data, which is sent to the provider computer 5 in an e-mail. Further, the '136 patent discloses that, based on the addressee e-mail code in the e-mail, the provider 5 determines whether the e-mail is addressed to the maker's provider computer 8, and transmits the e-mail message to the provider 8 if it is addressed to the provider 8. Further, the '136 patent discloses that:

[w]hen a trouble is discovered in user A's device 1, its operator immediately operates its input means 17 to load a mail setting program onto the program memory 14D and starts it. At the same time, the information stored then in the diagnostic data memory 14D is processed for saving (step S1). As the mail setting program is activated, a menu for necessary operations for setting electronic mail is displayed on the screen of the monitor 16. The operator connects the provider 5 to the computer part C1 with the telephone line T1, say, by clicking a mouse on the menu on the screen of the monitor 16 (step S2). Thereafter, the mail code of the maker is inputted in the address e-mail code column ML1 (shown in Figure 3) from the input means 17 although it is usually already inputted such that the user would not be required to input it. The mail code of user A himself/herself is inputted in the sender's mail code column ML2. Next, a title for the message (such as "trouble"), indicating that this message is about a trouble, is inputted in the title column in all three. The content of each of the entry columns ML1-ML3 is saved in the e-mail memory 14C. Next, the mouse is clicked again on the menu displayed on the screen of the monitor 16 to enter the information stored in the diagnostic data memory 14D as the diagnostic information to be transmitted by electronic mail.<sup>5</sup>

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the '136 patent discloses that a user of the computer C1 must initiate the sending of an e-mail regarding a malfunction in the device 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the '136 patent fails to disclose the step of processing, automatically without human intervention, state information by a software component within a first computer, and transmitting, by the first computer, automatically

---

<sup>5</sup> '136 patent, column 4, line 62 to column 5, line 17.

without human intervention, the processed state information over the Internet to a monitored second computer, as recited in Claim 18. Rather, the '136 patent discloses that a user must initiate the sending of the electronic mail over the Internet by the first computer.

As discussed above, the '779 patent is directed to a method and apparatus for controlling and communicating with business office devices. The '779 patent discloses a copier engine 10 connected to an operational panel 20, which displays information to a user on a display screen. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '779 patent fails to disclose the steps of processing, without human intervention, the state information by a software component within the first computer, and transmitting, by the first computer, automatically without human intervention, the processed state information over the Internet to a monitored second computer, as recited in amended Claim 18. The '779 patent fails to disclose transmitting information over the Internet to a monitoring second computer or the processing of state information automatically without human intervention, as recited in Claim 18.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '136 and '779 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest the processing and transmitting steps recited in Claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and the rejection of Claim 18 (and all similarly rejected dependent claims) should be withdrawn.

Claim 40 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 18. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 18, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and the rejection of Claim 40 (and all similarly rejected dependent claims) should be withdrawn.

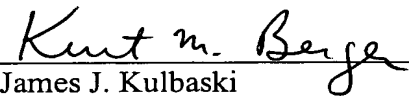
Regarding the rejections of dependent Claims 19-22, 41-44, 49, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully submit that the '636 and '492 patents fail to remedy the deficiencies of the '136 and '779 patents, as discussed above. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claims 18 and 40, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the above-listed dependent claims.

#### VIII. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of Claims 1-53 patentably distinguishes over the combination of teachings of the '694, '779, '136, '492, and '636 patents. Therefore, the outstanding rejections must be REVERSED.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 34,648  
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)  
JJ/KMB:smi

I:\ATTY\KMB\5244\5244-0084\52440084.APPEAL.BRIEF.DOC

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Rejected) A method of processing messages, comprising:

receiving an electronic mail message by a computer;

determining, by the computer, whether a content of the received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer by detecting a characteristic of the message, the attached printing device including a processor;

transmitting a communication from the computer to the attached printing device, if the determining step determines that the received message relates to monitoring or control of the attached printing device; and

operating the processor of the attached printing device in response to the transmitted communication.

2. (Rejected) The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining whether the received message includes instructions for operating the printing device or whether the received message has the user of the computer as an end recipient.

3. (Rejected) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

displaying, after the receiving step, a message to the user indicating the electronic mail message contains information to be forwarded to the printing device,

wherein the determining step comprises:

determining, by a user reading the displayed message, whether the received message includes instructions for operating the printing device.

4. (Rejected) A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:  
executing a command which causes the step of transmitting to be performed.
5. (Rejected) A method according to claim 4, wherein the executing step comprises:  
executing program code of a file which is attached to the message by a manual action  
by the user.
6. (Rejected) A method according to claim 5, wherein the executing step comprises:  
executing the program code of the file by pointing, using a pointing device and a  
graphical user interface, to an object representing the file.
7. (Rejected) A method according to claim 6, wherein the executing step comprises:  
executing the code by pressing a button while pointing to the object representing the  
file.
8. (Rejected) A method according to claim 1, wherein the receiving step comprises:  
receiving an Internet electronic mail message.
9. (Rejected) A method according to claim 4, wherein:  
the step of executing a command comprises transmitting information to a device  
driver executing within the computer; and  
the step of transmitting is performed using the device driver.
10. (Rejected) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:



receiving, by the printing device, the communication transmitted from the computer;  
and

transmitting parameters from the printing device to the computer, in response to the communication which has been received by the printing device.

11. (Rejected) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:  
performing a mechanical action by the printing device, in response to the communication which has been received by the printing device.

12. (Rejected) The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining whether the message is for the user or relates to the monitoring or control of the attached printing device automatically by detecting a characteristic of the email.

13. (Rejected) The method according to claim 12, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached printing device automatically by detecting a code within the message.

14. (Rejected) The method according to claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached printing device automatically by detecting the code which is the subject of the message.

15. (Rejected) The method according to claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached printing device automatically by detecting the code which is in a body of the message.

16. (Rejected) A method according to claim 12, wherein the determining step is performed in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message.

17. (Rejected) A method according to claim 16, wherein the determining step is performed in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message which is detected by monitoring an existence of a file stored at a predetermined location in memory.

18. (Rejected) A method of transmitting, comprising:

transmitting state information including at least one of static, semi-static, and dynamic states of a printing device from the printing device to a first computer directly attached to the printing device, the printing device including a processor;

processing, automatically without human intervention, the state information by a software component within the first computer; and

transmitting, by the first computer, automatically without human intervention, the processed state information over the Internet to a monitoring second computer.

19. (Rejected) The method according to claim 18, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the state information as an electronic mail message over the Internet.

20. (Rejected) The method according to claim 19, wherein:

the first computer is a message transfer agent,

the step of transmitting information from the printing device comprises transmitting the information from the printing device directly to the first computer which is the message transfer agent, and

the step of transmitting the electronic mail message comprises transmitting the electronic mail message using a TCP connection from the first computer which is a message transfer agent.

21. (Rejected) The method according to claim 19, wherein the processing step comprises:

creating a file corresponding to the states information; and

writing the file to a mail spool directory of the first computer, and

wherein the step of transmitting the electronic mail message comprises transmitting the electronic mail message corresponding to the state information using the file stored in the mail spool directory.

22. (Rejected) A method according to claim 21, wherein:

the step of creating and writing comprises creating a plurality of files and writing the plurality of files in the mail spool directory; and

the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the electronic mail message using each of the plurality of files stored in the mail spool directory.

23. (Rejected) A system for processing messages, comprising:

means, associated with a computer, for receiving an electronic mail message;

means for determining whether a content of the received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached printing device associated with the computer by detecting a characteristic of the message, the attached printing device including a processor;

means for transmitting a communication from the computer to the attached printing device, if the means for determining determines that the received message relates to monitoring or control of the attached printing device; and

means for operating the processor of the attached printing device in response to the transmitted communication.

24. (Rejected) The system according to claim 23, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining whether the received message includes instructions for operating the printing device or whether the received message has the user of the computer as an end recipient.

25. (Rejected) The system according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for displaying a message to the user indicating the electronic mail message contains information to be forwarded to the printing device,

wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining, by a user reading the displayed message, whether the received message includes instructions for operating the printing device.

26. (Rejected) A system according to claim 25, further comprising:

means for executing a command which causes the means for transmitting to operate.

27. (Rejected) A system according to claim 26, wherein the means for executing comprises:

means for executing program code of a file which is attached to the message by a manual action by the user.

28. (Rejected) A system according to claim 27, wherein the means for executing comprises:

means for executing the program code of the file by pointing, using a pointing device and a graphical user interface, to an object representing the file.

29. (Rejected) A system according to claim 28, wherein the means for executing comprises:

means for executing the code by pressing a button while pointing to the object representing the file.

30. (Rejected) A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for receiving comprises:

means for receiving an Internet electronic mail message.

31. (Rejected) A system according to claim 26, wherein:

the means for executing a command comprises means for transmitting information to a device driver executing within the computer; and

the means for transmitting operates using the device driver.

32. (Rejected) The system according to claim 23, further comprising:  
  
means for receiving, by the printing device, the communication transmitted from the computer; and  
  
means for transmitting parameters from the printing device to the computer, in response to the communication which has been received by the printing device.

33. (Rejected) A system according to claim 32, further comprising:  
  
means for performing a mechanical action by the printing device, in response to the communication which has been received by the printing device.

34. (Rejected) The system according to claim 23, wherein the means for determining comprises:  
  
means for determining that the message is for the user or relates to the monitoring or control of the attached printing device automatically by detecting a characteristic of the email.

35. (Rejected) The system according to claim 34, wherein the means for determining comprises:  
  
means for determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached printing device automatically by detecting a code within the message.

36. (Rejected) The system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining comprising:

means for determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached printing device automatically by detecting the code which is the subject of the message.

37. (Rejected) The system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached printing device automatically by detecting the code which is in a body of the message.

38. (Rejected) A system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining operates in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message.

39. (Rejected) A system according to claim 38, wherein the means for determining operates in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message which is detected by monitoring an existence of a file stored at a predetermined location in memory.

40. (Rejected) A system of transmitting, comprising:

means for transmitting state information including at least one of static, semi-static, and dynamic states of a printing device from the printing device to a first computer directly attached to the printing device, the printing device including a processor;

means for processing, automatically without human intervention, the state information by a software component within the first computer; and

means for transmitting, by the first computer, automatically without human intervention, the processed state information over the Internet to a monitoring second computer.

41. (Rejected) The system according to claim 40, further comprising:

means for transmitting the state information as an electronic mail message over the Internet.

42. (Rejected) The system according to claim 41, wherein:

the first computer is a message transfer agent,

the means for transmitting information from the printing device transmits the information from the printing device directly to the first computer which is the message transfer agent, and

the means for transmitting the electronic mail message transmits the electronic mail message using a TCP connection from the first computer which is a message transfer agent.

43. (Rejected) The system according to claim 41, wherein the means for processing comprises:

means for creating a file corresponding to the state information; and

means for writing the file to a mail spool directory of the first computer, and

wherein the means for transmitting the electronic mail message comprises means for transmitting the electronic mail message corresponding to the state information using the file stored in the mail spool directory.

44. (Rejected) A system according to claim 43, wherein:



the means for creating and writing comprises means for creating a plurality of files and writing the plurality of files in the mail spool directory; and

the means for transmitting comprises means for transmitting the electronic mail message using each of the plurality of files stored in the mail spool directory.

45. (Rejected) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: receiving data from the printing device, in response to the step of operating the processor;

creating an electronic mail message by the computer including the data which has been received; and

transmitting over the Internet the electronic mail message generated by the computer.

46. (Rejected) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of: executing, by a device driver of the computer, commands for at least one of controlling and monitoring the printing device.

47. (Rejected) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~image~~ printing device at least one of generates an image on a recording medium and scans an image on a recording medium.

48. (Rejected) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the communication as a command for processing by the processor of the printing device.

49. (Rejected) A method according to claim 18, wherein the step of transmitting the state information from the printing device comprises:

transmitting the state information from the printing device which at least one of generates an image on a recording medium and scans an image on a recording medium.

50. (Rejected) A system according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for receiving data from the printing device, in response to an operation of the means for operating the processor;

means for creating an electronic mail message by the computer including the data which has been received; and

means for transmitting over the Internet the electronic mail message generated by the computer.

51. (Rejected) A system according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for executing, by a device driver of the computer, commands for at least one of controlling and monitoring the image printing device.

52. (Rejected) A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for transmitting comprises:

means for transmitting the communication as a command for processing by the processor of the printing device.

53. (Rejected) A system according to claim 40, wherein the means for transmitting the state information from the printing device comprises:

means for transmitting the state information from the printing device which at least one of generates an image on a recording medium and scans an image on a recording medium.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

RELATED PROCEEDING APPENDIX

None